

## Johnson, Patrick

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**From:** Meghan Browne <meghanpbrowne@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 28, 2013 11:34 AM  
**To:** District Applications  
**Subject:** 10-ONE Commission Application #10518  
**Attachments:** COA Commission Application FORM.pdf

Ben Loeffler,

Please find attached the updated application (including the updated, accurate voting record, as told to me over the phone today by the Travis County Voter Registration office).

Many Thanks,

Meghan P. Browne  
512-350-8837

On Feb 22, 2013, at 9:41 PM, Meghan Browne wrote:

> To Whom it May Concern,  
>  
> Please find attached my application for selection to the Citizens Redistricting Commission.  
>  
> Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.  
>  
> Many Thanks,  
>  
> Meghan P. Browne  
> 512-350-8837  
>  
> <COA Commission Application FORM.pdf>



# APPLICATION FOR THE INDEPENDENT CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

Please submit your completed application  
by email to [district.applications@austintexas.gov](mailto:district.applications@austintexas.gov)  
by mail or in person to:  
Office of the City Auditor  
301 W. 2nd Street Suite 2130  
Austin, TX 78701

*Application Period:  
January 18, 2013  
through  
February 22, 2013*

**FOR ASSISTANCE WITH INTERPRETING KEY TERMS, SEE THE GLOSSARY  
AT THE END OF THIS APPLICATION**

**MORE DETAILS ABOUT THE APPLICATION PROCESS CAN BE FOUND IN  
THE CITY AUDITOR'S INTERPRETIVE GUIDANCE AND THE CITY CHARTER  
AT [WWW.AUSTINTEXAS.GOV/10-ONE](http://WWW.AUSTINTEXAS.GOV/10-ONE)**

You must submit an electronic application to [district.applications@austintexas.gov](mailto:district.applications@austintexas.gov)  
or provide a signed application to the Office of the City Auditor in person or by mail at:

301 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Suite 2130

Austin, TX 78701

**Submission Deadline: February 22, 2013**

**DUTIES AND TERMS OF SERVICE**

Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission duties include:

1. Conduct duties with integrity and fairness.
2. Conduct an open and transparent process to enable full public consideration of and comment on the drawing of district lines to include an open hearing process.
3. Draw district lines in accordance with specific redistricting criteria in the Charter.
4. Adopt a final redistricting plan and certify the plan to the Austin City Council.
5. Issue a report that explains the basis on which the Commission made its decisions.

Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission Member terms of service include:

1. Members of the Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission (Commission) will not be compensated for serving, but are eligible to receive reimbursement of reasonable and necessary expenses related to Commission duties. Guidance on what is considered "reasonable and necessary" will be provided by the appropriate authority at a later date.
2. Serve a term of office that expires when the first member of the succeeding Commission is appointed in the year after the next national census is taken.
3. Members of the Commission will be subject to the following restrictions on their future activities:
  - For a period of **10** years beginning from the date that a person is appointed to the Commission, the person **will not** be eligible to be elected to the Austin City Council.
  - For a period of **three** years beginning from the date that a person is appointed to the Commission, the person **may not** hold appointed office for the City of Austin.
  - For a period of **three** years beginning from the date that a person is appointed to the Commission, the person **may not**:
    - Serve as a City employee or as a paid consultant to the City of Austin.
    - Serve as a paid consultant to a member of the City Council in the council member's private capacity; or
    - Receive a non-competitively bid contract with the City of Austin.

**APPLICATION FOR THE  
INDEPENDENT CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION**

**2013**

Please complete this section legibly.

Name of Applicant: Browne Meghan Powers  
(Last) (First) (Middle) (Suffix)

Voter Registration Number (VUID): 1131018811

Residence Address (must be a fixed location in the City of Austin):

3301 Bryker Drive Austin TX 78703  
(Street Address) (City) (State) (Zip)

Mailing Address (if different from Residence Address)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Street Address or PO Box) (City) (State) (Zip)

Contact Phone: 512-350-8837

Contact Email Address: meghanpbrowne@gmail.com

Spouse's Name: Browne Gregory Wayne  
(Last) (First) (Middle) (Suffix)

**APPLICATION FOR THE  
INDEPENDENT CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION**

**2013**

Please check YES or NO by each requirement. If you answer YES to question one (1), you may skip questions four (4) and five (5).

1. Are you a student enrolled in a community college or university in the City of Austin? ☐ Yes ☒ No
2. Do you reside in the City of Austin? ☒ Yes ☐ No
3. Are you registered to vote in the City of Austin? ☒ Yes ☐ No
4. Have you been continuously registered to vote in the City of Austin for the five years immediately preceding the date on which you submit this application? ☒ Yes ☐ No
5. Please indicate whether you voted in the following City of Austin general elections (or corresponding runoff if applicable):

City of Austin General Elections	Candidate Response
May 12, 2012	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
May 14, 2011	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
May 9, 2009	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
May 10, 2008	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
May 13, 2006	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

**Conflicts of Interest**

The information below is required to help the City Auditor identify any conflict of interest you may have.

<b>Within 5 years of the application date, have <i>you or your spouse</i>:</b>	
Been appointed to a state or city office?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Been elected to a state or city office?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Been a candidate for a state or city office?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Served as an officer, employee, or paid consultant of a political party?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Served as an officer, employee, or paid consultant of the campaign committee of a candidate for elective state, county, or city office?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Been a registered state or local lobbyist?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Within 3 years of the application date, have <i>you or your spouse</i> been:</b>	
A paid employee of the City of Austin?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
A person performing paid services under a professional or political contract to the City of Austin or the City Council of the City of Austin?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
A controlling person of a person performing paid services under a professional or political contract to the City of Austin or the City Council of the City of Austin?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
A person performing paid services under a professional or political contract to any member of the City Council of the City of Austin?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
A controlling person of a person performing paid services under a professional or political contract to any member of the City Council of the City of Austin?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<b>In the last City Election did <i>you or your spouse</i>:</b>	
Contribute or bundle one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or more in aggregate to candidates for City of Austin elective office?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No



# APPLICATION FOR THE INDEPENDENT CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

2013

## Personal Background Information

- Ethnicity: American
- Race: Caucasian
- Gender: ☐ Male ☒ Female
- Age: (Please check your response)  
☐ 18 to 24 ☒ 25 to 34 ☐ 35 to 44 ☐ 45 to 54 ☐ 55 to 64 ☐ 65+
- Education level: (Please check any that apply)  
☐ High School Diploma or GED  
☐ Some College (major \_\_\_\_\_)  
☐ Associate's Degree (major \_\_\_\_\_)  
☒ Bachelor's Degree (major Political Science)  
☐ Post-Graduate Degree, indicate highest degree attained: (subject \_\_\_\_\_)

## Qualifications

### Please describe your relevant analytical skills.

I believe that the quality of an individual's analytical skills is based directly upon his or her ability to see many sides of any problem. This perspective comes from exposure to varied life experiences. My analytical skills have been honed since my days as a student in the Austin Independent School District. I graduated from Hill Elementary School, Kealing Junior High, and was the first graduating class of the combined Liberal Arts and Science Academy at LBJ High School where I gave a commencement speech as the elected senior class president of a highly diverse (ethnically, socially, economically, geographically, and otherwise) group of young people. I was involved as a leader in many groups at this school, and found myself to be prepared beyond many of my peers from less diverse high school campuses when I arrived at the University of Arizona, simply for the richness of my exposure to diversity in previous years.

I majored in Political Science at the University of Arizona where I experienced campus life as a student of the Honors College and the NCAA Division I athletic program. My closest classmates, teammates, and professors hailed from many places: the nearby Native American reservations to the faraway countries of South Africa and Ukraine. Their life experiences, much different from mine, enriched my education and world view.

Upon graduation I returned to the city I have always called home (Austin), and began work in a male-dominated industry: heavy highway equipment rentals and sales in the public sector. In my fifteen months as the Director of Government Sales for Niece Equipment (a small, veteran-owned business in Del Valle), I had secured contracts with federal agencies (including the Department of Homeland Security and the Fort Hood Fire Department), as well as many city and county agencies across the country to the tune of over \$800,500 in revenue. I additionally landed the company its very first spot on the US General Services Administration list of approved contractors. In my time with Niece I visited many Texas towns, worked with many procurement agents, travelled to Washington D.C. to secure a federal contract, and was invited by Kenworth to their semi-truck manufacturing plant in Montreal, Canada. During this portion of my life I saw many walks of life, understood well the personal challenges of working as a minority in a specific industry, and had many opportunities for travel.

I later worked for Moreland Properties as a licensed assistant to two highly successful Austin real estate agents. With an office on Lake Austin and a client/customer base reaching from Pflugerville to Dripping Springs to Lakeway I helped a great number of people during the stress of conducting likely the most high-dollar transaction they had made in their lives to date. I managed the marketing efforts in the office, communicated with the clients, real estate agents, title companies, and utility entities among others.

During my time at Moreland I was courted by a small startup in Austin, Swimtopia, where I assisted the founder in landing some of the company's first clients. I was able to use my background as a competitive swimmer and salesperson to reach out to customers across the nation. Swimtopia continues to grow on this solid foundation, and is proving to be a success story in the Austin IT startup community.

Since 2011 I have been at home raising my two children full time. My perspective has grown beyond my educational and professional backgrounds. I now, with the help of my husband, manage the educational, behavioral, nutritional, monetary, and many other facets of our children and greater family's life. One of the things my husband and I have always desired to keep at the forefront of our personal life has been volunteering. We adopt and care for a rose garden on the Pfluger Pedestrian Bridge in downtown Austin as a part of The Trail Foundation's Adopt-a-Garden program. Additionally, since 2012 I have worked alongside Director Susan Rankin as the volunteer coordinator for the Adopt-a-Garden program. In the 2009-2010 school year I worked as a math coach for a group of children at Martin Middle School through the Partners in Education program, a group I hope to work with again in the future.

All of these experiences have granted me a wealth of interactions with varied people from vastly different walks of life. This perspective gives me the kind of analytical skill set, I believe, to be of great value to the 10-ONE Commission.



**Please describe your ability to be impartial.**

My ability to be impartial as a potential member of the Redistricting Commission stems from my deep desire to see Austin and her people succeed. Despite my personal beliefs or any of those who are selected for the commission, all members must be able to offer sound and fair judgement as a means of obtaining the best possible result for our city at large. Having been born and raised, educated and entertained (and now having birthed and in the process of raising my own children here) in Austin, I have a strong longing to help our city rise to her esteemed potential. The ownership I feel for my hometown lends me the ability to feel strongly about the best practices for reaching this potential, but perhaps more importantly, a sense of duty to act in a way that is in the best interest for all. My study at the University of Arizona's College of Social and Behavioral Sciences gave me a great understanding of the necessity of impartiality (most certainly combined with strong personal convictions) in achieving greatness in government.

My practical experience in impartiality has been honed especially in more recent years of my life as I have worked professionally for different kinds and type of people, married, and had children. The ability to act fairly, justly, and make decisions for the greater good are not only helpful, but imperative in order to do these things successfully.

**Please describe your appreciation for the City of Austin's diverse demographics and geography.**

I was born at Brackenridge Hospital. My parents brought me home to a small house in south-central Austin. I spent most of my childhood living in northwest Austin. During this time, however, I attended middle school in central-east Austin, high school in northeast Austin, and spent many of my free hours as a youth swimming in southwest Austin. My family attended Church in Westlake when I was growing up. When I married, I settled with my husband (also a native Austinite) in Oak Hill for a few years before we moved to a home we love in Bryker Woods. I have worked in offices as far east as Del Valle, as eclectic as Live Oak Street in South Austin, and as beautiful as on the shores of Lake Austin. I certainly understand the variety of people who call Austin home. The diverse group of people I have encountered in my nearly three decades here have influenced me in many ways, but we all have one thing in common: Our city - Our love of this great town on the Colorado River.

**Please provide any other information you wish to be considered during the selection of the most qualified applicants for the Commission.**

I feel very strongly that my youth, gender, educational background and current profession as a stay-at-home mother allow me a unique perspective that would suit the commission and our city's future positively.

**DISCLAIMER**

By submitting this application, I understand that I am giving the City Auditor permission to release my information to the public. In particular, I affirmatively consent to the release of the contact email address I have provided.

If I am appointed, my address, contact phone number and contact email address will be included on the City of Austin's website.

I understand my application is public information under the Texas Public Information Act. The information will be kept according to the City Auditor's records retention policies.

I understand that my participation on the Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission is voluntary.

I understand the duties and terms of service for the Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission as described above.

Under penalty of law, I swear or affirm that the preceding information in this application is in all things true and correct.

**Meghan P. Browne**

Signature of Applicant

If submitting electronically, please type your full name in the signature box.

**02/22/13**

Date

**GLOSSARY**

- “Bundle” means to raise money as an intermediary for a council candidate by soliciting contributions on the candidate’s behalf.
- “Campaign committee” in regard to an “officer, employee or paid consultant of a campaign committee” means a candidate or a specific purpose political committee supporting or opposing a candidate.
- “Candidate” for elective office means a person whose name appeared on a ballot, or who was a declared write-in candidate, in a general or primary election. It does not mean a person who merely announced a candidacy or only filed campaign finance filings. This definition attempts to construe the term against ineligibility, avoid ambiguity and disputes of fact, and use the term in the way most commonly understood by a lay person.
- “City” means Austin.
- “City elective office” means the office of mayor and city council member.
- “City employee” means an employee on the City payroll, including a temporary or part-time employee. The term does not include an independent contractor. This definition follows the definition in Section 2-7-2 of the City Code.
- “City office,” with respect to appointment, means a municipal court judgeship (including a substitute judgeship), and membership on a commission, committee, board, task force, or other City body appointed by the mayor or the city council. This definition follows the definition of “city official” in Section 2-7-2 of the City Code, excluding those City officials who are covered separately as City employees.
- “Community college or university in the City of Austin” means a degree-granting post-secondary educational institution, accredited by a recognized accrediting agency under the Education Code, that grants one or more of the following: an associate’s degree, a bachelor’s degree, a master’s degree, or a doctorate, and that regularly conducts classes where the instructor and two or more students are physically present in a physical location within Austin’s city limits.
- “Contribution,” for purposes of calculating aggregate contributions to candidates for City elective office, includes all contributions to candidates for mayor and city council, and contributions to specific purpose political committees supporting or opposing those candidates.
- “County” refers to a county in which the City of Austin has territory.
- “County elective office” means an office that is voted on county-wide or an office that is voted on by the voters of a precinct drawn by a commissioners court.
- “Employee” with respect to a political party or campaign committee means a person who was paid a salary by the political party or campaign committee.
- “Local lobbyist” means a person required to register under Chapter 4-8 of the City Code.
- “Non-competitively bid contract” means a contract which must be awarded as provided in Section 252.043 of the Local Government Code (“lowest responsible bidder” or “best value for the municipality”).

- “Officer” with respect to the “campaign committee of a candidate for elective state, county or city office” means:
  - the campaign treasurer of a candidate for an elective state, county, or city office;
  - the campaign treasurer of a specific purpose political committee that supported or opposed a candidate for an elective state, county, or city office; or
  - an officer or director of an incorporated specific purpose political committee, incorporated for liability purposes only under Section 253.092 of the Texas Election Code, that supported or opposed a candidate for an elective state, county, or city office.
- “Officer” with respect to a political party means a precinct chair, a county chair, or a member of a party executive committee under Title 10 of the Texas Election Code.
- “Paid Consultant” with respect to work done for a political party or campaign committee means a person who was paid monetary consideration for providing legal services, accounting services, public relations services, statistical or polling services, or political or campaign-related services or advice.
- “Paid Consultant” with respect to the three year ban on paid consultancy with a council member, means having a “political or professional contract” with a council member as defined in this guidance.
- “Political or professional contract,” in the context of a contract with a council member, means a contract with a council member under which, in return for consideration, a person provided expert advice or personal services related to a council member's duties or to the council member's service as a council member, or provided advice about the conduct of campaign activities or holding office, or provided services to a council member that would be reportable on the council member's required campaign and officeholder filings under Title 15 of the Texas Election Code; Article III, §8 of the Austin City Charter; or Chapter 2-2 of the Austin City Code. This does not include a contract solely for the sale of goods.
- “Political party” means a political party that appeared on the ballot in any of the last three general elections for state and county officers.
- “Professional contract,” in the context of a contract with the City means a non-competitively bid contract other than a contract solely for the sale of goods.
- “State” means Texas.
- “State office” means an office held by a “state officer” as defined in Section 572.002 of the Government Code.
  - In the context of an appointment to a state office, “state office” means: the office of Secretary of State, an office of a state agency subject to appointment for a term of office specified by the Texas Constitution or a statute of this state; an office subject to appointment with the advice and consent of the senate; the position of executive head of a state agency; or a state office subject to election but filled by appointment because of a vacancy or because the office is newly created.
  - In the context of candidacy or election to a state office, “state office” means a seat in the legislature, an executive or judicial office filled in a statewide election; a judgeship of a court of appeals or of a district court; membership on the State Board of Education; or the position of district attorney or criminal district attorney.
- “Student” means a person actively enrolled in a community college or university on the date of the person’s application to the Commission.

